

What God Wrote about His Word



The Holy Scriptures are more than just a "good book."

THE index page of your Bible lists all 66 books of Scripture. You will find it helpful throughout your life if you take the time to commit the names and order of these books to memory. This second lesson presents what God has to say to us about these books...books which, together, make up our Bible.

The Bible Speaks of Itself

1. Open your Bible up just about in the middle, and you will probably find yourself in (or near) the Book of Psalms. The 119th Psalm is unique in that it has a separate section for every letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Hebrew is the language the Old Testament was written in. Read verse 160. *What does the writer say about the Word of God - the Bible?*

2. Read Matthew 22:23-33. Jesus was speaking to some Sadducees - a Jewish sect which did not believe in the resurrection. At this time, the *New* Testament of the Bible was not yet written down. Therefore, Jesus is referring to the Old Testament when he comments on the Scriptures in verses 29 and 31. From verse 29, *WHOSE power works through the Holy Scriptures?*

From verse 31, *WHO is it who speaks through the Bible?*

3. An "oracle" is a truth about the past, present, and future. Read Romans 3:1-2. *WHOSE "oracles" did the ancient Jews receive?*

4. ...That was the Old Testament. Jesus also promised to give His people a *New* Testament to guide them into all truth after He was gone. Read John 16:12-13. ***Who did Jesus say would speak to them through the words of the New Testament?***

5. When Paul wrote to the Christians in Thessalonica, he made a bold claim about the words he used when teaching them about Jesus. Read I Thessalonians 2:13. Those people considered his teaching to be much more than just good and wise words. ***WHOSE Word did they consider Paul's teaching to be?***

The Old and New Testaments



The record of Scripture reveals to us that God wrote down His Word through forty-four different writers over a period of 1600 years. God Himself inscribed the Ten Commandments on two tablets of stone for Moses on Mt. Sinai; this happened in about the year 1500 BC ("Before Christ"). The *last* book of the Bible, the Revelation of St. John, was given to John on the island of Patmos in about the year 68 AD (Anno Domini, Latin for "In the year of our Lord").

6. The writer to the Hebrews claimed even more about the Bible. Read Hebrews 1:1-2. ***Who is speaking to us through the words of the Bible?***

Through whom did God speak in Old Testament times?

Through whom did God speak in New Testament times?



God used many men to write down His Word in the Bible. Many writers over a very long time all wrote about the same subject - Jesus Christ - and *never once made a mistake or disagreed with each other!* God saw to that we got the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth concerning the way of salvation. Let's take a closer look now at how we got our Bible

God's Penmen

7. Look at the account of Christ's transfiguration in Luke 9:28-36. The disciples Peter, James and John saw Jesus with His glorified body, just as He would appear in Heaven. What a miracle! What an amazing and convincing sight! Yet in his second Epistle, Peter said that there's something even more miraculous and convincing than that. Read II Peter 1:18-19. ***To what is the Apostle referring when he says, "You have the prophetic word made more sure"?***

Some people say that one Bible passage can mean two different things, depending on how you interpret it. But read verse 20. ***What does this verse say about the teachings of Scripture?***

Some people say that the Bible was composed by human writers, who put down their own ideas about God. ***But what does verse 21 tell us about how we got the Bible?***

8. Read II Timothy 3:16. ***Exactly HOW were the Holy Scriptures given to us?***



-To *inspire* literally means to "breath into". That is the Greek word which describes how wind fills the sails of a ship. It's also the same word which, in the previous passage, describes how God put the very thoughts and words into the hearts of those who wrote the books of the Bible.

9. The Apostle Paul denied that he and the other writers of the Bible simply wrote down their *own* wise thoughts and ideas. Read I Corinthians 2:13. ***From WHOM did Paul get the words which he wrote down?***



Be warned: many churches who call themselves "Christian" (or even "Lutheran") say that the Bible has mistakes in it. They teach that the Bible only "contains" the Word of God, rather than that the Bible IS the Word of God. A cup which "contains" water...may also contain deadly poison! In the passage you just read, Paul wrote about every single word of the Bible. EVERY WORD is given by God, is "God-breathed".

The Purpose of the Bible

10. All these passages indicate that God had a *purpose* in taking such great care to record His Word in the Bible. In the 17th chapter of John, we overhear Jesus praying for His followers. To "sanctify" means *to make holy*, or *to set apart*. Read John 17:14-17. ***From verse 17, what is God's Word?***

What is God's Word able to do for believers?

11. The Roman Catholic Church has taught for centuries that only priests, with the Pope leading the way, can understand and interpret the Bible. But read Psalm 119:105. *Is the Bible hard for regular people to understand?*



According to this passage, *what purpose does the Bible serve?*

12. The Bible has a power far beyond any other book known to man. In fact, the Apostle Paul says the Bible is able to do something no other book can do. Read II Timothy 3:15. *What is something that only God's powerful Word can accomplish?*

13. Read I Peter 2:2. *What is another purpose for which God gave us the Bible?*

14. Read Titus 1:9. *What is one reason you (and every Christian) should study the truths of the Bible?*

15. Read again John 5:39. *What would the Pharisees have discovered if they had only studied the Bible in the right way?*

16. Read Luke 11:28. Jesus says there are two keys to living a "blessed" - or happy -life, both here and in eternity. *They are...*

and

17. Malachi is the last book of the Old Testament, written about 400 years before Christ was born. In Malachi 3:16, it says that the Lord heard the prayers of those who "feared" (respected) Him and used His Word in the right way. From the end of this passage, *what is one thing God wants us to do with His Word?*

18. The more you study the Bible the more you will see the great love which our Lord has for children. Read Deuteronomy 6:6-7. *What is another important way God expects us to use His Word?*

19. It's hard not to be happy when we read John 3:16, and learn that God loved us so much that He gave His only Son to die on the cross for us. Through the cross, all our sins have been pardoned, and we are assured a place in heaven. In view of these happy truths, *what is another way God wants us to use His Word?*

Perhaps you have been blessed with a beautiful singing voice, and can use your gift to lead others in the praise of our Savior.. However, the most beautiful melody which God hears begins in the heart - a heart overflowing with the joy of forgiveness. Even if you can't tell one note from another, worship which proceeds from a heart filled with faith and love will surely be pleasing to the Lord!

Additional Bible Readings

For additional Bible reading see Psalm 119, especially vv. 97-112 and 129-144

